
PROGRAM CHARTER
FOR
FLEET REPLACEMENT
Program Manager: Tajr Hull
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fleet Replacement Program, a mission support program in the Fleet Services Sub-Goal, develops the requirements, business case acquisition strategies, funding profiles, contractual instruments and preliminary arrangements necessary to design, construct / modernize, equip, and deliver the ships and ship systems required to safely meet NOAA's at-sea data collection requirements. The Program forecasts the requirements for at-sea data collection, defines the planned replacement and modernization of the NOAA fleet to meet the needs of all NOAA's Mission Goals.

Acquisition planning, design and execution of ship and ship system procurement and modernization contracts is conducted by Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) personnel located in Silver Spring, MD, Norfolk, VA, and Seattle, WA.

Details of the capabilities and organization of OMAO and the Marine Operation Center may be found at www.oma.noaa.gov and www.moc.noaa.gov.

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Requirement Drivers:

- 33USC Chapter 17 "National Ocean Survey" Section 883i authorizes NOAA to "...acquire, construct, maintain and operate ships...."
- 33USC Chapter 17 Section 891b authorizes NOAA to acquire and equip up to six Fisheries Survey Vessels and prescribes conditions for NOAA vessel construction and leasing.
- 33USC Chapter 17 Section 892 authorizes NOAA to "...procure...vessels, equipment and technologies..." to acquire hydrographic data.
- 16USC Chapters 31 "Marine Mammal Protection", 35 "Endangered Species", and 38 "Fishery Conservation and Management" make NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service responsible for the management and conservation of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. The long-term collection of data at-sea in support of this effort requires the dedicated and technologically sophisticated vessels designed, constructed and modernized by the Fleet Replacement Program.

- 15USC Chapter 9 “National Weather Service” requires NOAA’s National Weather Service to forecast the weather, issue storm warnings, report temperature and rainfall conditions, and take meteorological observations necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States.
- Department of Commerce Operations Order 25-5 requires OMAO to develop the plans and administer the upgrade of NOAA ships, associated equipment and facilities.
- NOAA Strategic Plan identifies NOAA ships as an element of its Mission Support Goal and one of the components of “...the backbone of the global Earth observing system....”

B. Mission Requirement:

- Provide new / modernized ships and ship systems to safely meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA’s Mission Goals and Line Offices.

3. LINKS TO THE NOAA STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. Goal Outcome:** The Fleet Replacement Program supports the Mission Support outcome, “Ship, aircraft, and satellite programs that ensure continuous observation of critical environmental conditions.”
- B. Goal Performance Objective:** The Fleet Replacement Program supports the Mission Support performance objective, “Improve efficiency and performance of financial, administrative, workforce management, acquisition, and other support transactions and services.”
- C. Goal Strategy:** The Fleet Replacement Program employs the Mission Support strategy “Use effective and efficient approaches to meet NOAA requirements for ship and aircraft support.”

4. PROGRAM OUTCOME: Provide ships and ship systems which safely meet NOAA’s at-sea data collection requirements.

5. PROGRAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This program is established and managed with the procedures established in the NOAA Business Operations Manual (BOM). Responsibilities of the Program Manager are described in the BOM. Responsibilities of other major participants are summarized below.

A. Participating Line Office, Staff Office, and Council Responsibilities:

1. OMAO is responsible for the operation and maintenance of NOAA’s fleet of ships to safely meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA’s Mission Goals and Line Offices.

2. NOAA's line offices, through their associated Mission Goal Programs, are responsible for the identification of at-sea data collection requirements, the collaboration in the development of Congressional legislation required to obtain new / modernized ships, and technical assistance in the development of ship and ship system performance requirements.
3. NOAA's Fleet Council advises and comments on fleet renewal plans.
4. NOAA's Observing Systems Council identifies gaps in NOAA observation systems which require at-sea data collection assets.
5. NOAA's Ocean Council is responsible for coordinating ocean activities across NOAA; proposing priorities and investment strategies for ocean-related initiatives; and coordinating NOAA's participation in the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI). The NOC is also authorized to develop a strategy and serve as the agency focal point for responding to and implementing the recommendations of the President's Ocean Action Plan and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.
6. NOAA's Acquisition and Grants Management Offices is responsible for carrying out all NOAA acquisition and financial assistance service operations to support NOAA Programs under the policy guidance and oversight of the Director.
7. NOAA's Workforce Management Office is responsible for recruiting, developing, and retaining a workforce with the competencies necessary to carry out NOAA's mission; managing diversity; and supporting strategic management of human capital.
8. NOAA's General Counsel reviews contractual documentation, provides guidance in the development and execution of competitive source selection criteria and assists in the development of Memoranda of Understanding.
9. NOAA's Facilities Program assists in ship homeport development and maintenance.
10. NOAA's Information Technology Services Program acquires and implements information technology infrastructure that assures NOAA missions are able to adequately and securely deliver their data products.

B. External Agency/Organization Responsibilities:

1. Naval Sea Systems Command, including the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, provides technical support in the development and evaluation of ship designs.
2. Military Sealift Command makes available ships suitable for NOAA's missions (following conversion) which are no longer required by the U.S. Navy.

3. The U.S. Coast Guard provides technical analysis and field inspection of vessels under construction.

6. END USERS OR BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAM

The Fleet Replacement Program provides new / modernized ships and ship systems to the Marine Operations and Maintenance Program to meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices. NOAA's ships provide measurements and observations that:

- Support healthy and productive coastal marine ecosystems;
- Support a predictive understanding of the global climate system;
- Reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy due to weather related events;
- Support safe, secure, efficient, and seamless movement of goods in the U.S. marine transportation system.

NOAA Mission Goal Programs which have at-sea data collection requirements include:

- Climate and Ecosystems
- Climate Forcing
- Climate Observations and Analysis
- Climate Predictions and Projections
- Emergency Response
- Geodesy
- Marine Transportation Systems
- Coastal and Marine Resources
- Coral Reef Conservation
- Ecosystem Observations
- Ecosystem Research
- Habitat
- Protected Species
- Air Quality
- Coast, Estuaries and Oceans
- Science, Technology and Infusion
- Tsunami
- Satellite Services

- Homeland Security

Ultimately, the data collected by these programs supports the Nation's economy and public well-being.

Additionally, ship construction / modernization contracts provide critically needed work to the nation's shipbuilding industry.